

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 106249
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:KBROWN:AJ
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL
EA/K:FMISCH

-----059347 261642Z /42

O P 261614Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 106249

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PEPR, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON KAL INCIDENT

1. WASHINGTON POST APRIL 26 FRONT-PAGED LENGTHY KEVIN
KLOSE ARTICLE TITLED: "SOVIETS: MOSCOW WANTED PLANE DOWN."
KLOSE QUOTES "SOVIET SOURCES" AS REVEALING THAT THE DECISION
WAS MADE IN MOSCOW TO FORCE THE PLANE DOWN BY FIRING ON IT,
BUT TO BRING IT DOWN IN A CONDITION THAT WOULD PERMIT A
THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE AIRCRAFT FOR SUSPECTED ELECTRON-
IC INTELLIGENCE GEAR. SOVIET AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ALLEGEDLY
FEARED THE PLANE COULD BE AN INTELLIGENCE CRAFT POSING AS
AN AIRLINER, AND BECAME "CONVINCED," AS THE PLANE CONTINUED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 106249

SOUTH AND FAILED TO RESPOND TO RADIO INQUIRIES AND CIRCLING
INTERCEPTORS, THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD "SUDDENLY TURN WEST
AND FLEE TO SAFETY OVER THE NEARBY FINNISH BORDER, CARRYING
WITH IT VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE DATA." THE SOVIET SOURCES
REPORTEDLY STATED THAT MOSCOW FEARED THAT "WESTERN INTELLI-
GENCE AGENCIES HAD SEIZED UPON THE VISIT ... OF SECRETARY
VANCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PENETRATE SOVIET DEFENSE PERI-

METERS," REASONING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT SHOOT DOWN SUCH A PLANE AND THEREBY CREATE AN "EMBARRASSING INCIDENT."

2. KLOSE'S STORY CLAIMS THAT HIS SOURCES ARE SOVIETS WHO HAVE MADE A PRACTICE OF SPEAKING INFORMALLY TO WESTERN

JOURNALISTS AND WHO ARE CONSIDERED IN MOSCOW TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON CERTAIN MATTERS FROM TIME TO TIME. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTION, AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE106249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KBROWN:AJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780178-0765
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780414/aaaaalgw.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6eb12fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2840334
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON KAL INCIDENT
TAGS: EAIR, PEPR, SOPN, UR, US, WASHINGTON POST, (KLOSE, KEVIN)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6eb12fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014